

No.17
(City of Christchurch) SQUADRON, ATC
Est. 1942



13 MAGAZINE

Trophies, Awards and Promotions

Individual Awards

Woodfield Recruit Cup for Best Recruit	CDT G. Wilson
Adventure Training Trophy for Cadet Adventure Training	CDT K. Ryken
Halldane Trophy for Shooting	W/O J. Whitcombe
Paul Garrett Trophy for NCO Adventure Training	CPL C. Cullimore
Sommerville Cup for Endeavour	CDT T. Were
McKenzie Trophy for NCO Leadership	F/S A. Cotton
RNZAFA Award for General Excellence	SGT M. Watson
Squadron Commander's Trophy	CDT C. Blair
Ian Petit Trophy for Attendance	CPL E. Swain
R L Austin Trophy for Cadet Leadership	CDT T. Warming-Smith
Brevet Club Efficiency (Interflight Competition)	Spitfire
Doug Lord Memorial Trophy for Natural Flying Aptitude	F/S B. Basham
RSA Trophy for Community Service	SGT R. Siddall
Hoult Trophy for Dress and Bearing	CDT A. Meuldijk
Dan the Man Trophy for Motivation and Enthusiasm	CPL L. Trenberth
Cadet's Choice Award	FGOFF T. Wech

Brevet Club Prizes for Highest Exam Marks

Basic Exam	CDT Borelli
Proficiency Exam	SGT Debenham
Advanced Exam	LAC Collett

Regional & National Awards - 2013

Southern Area Efficiency – First Place
National Air League Trophy – First Place (the best ATC unit in NZ!)
No. 3 Squadron Cup for Southern Area Drill – First Place
Davy Memorial National Drill Competition – Second Place

2013 Promotions

To Corporal	CDT Dickson	To Flight Sergeant	SGT Cotton	
	CDT Buchanan		SGT Pugh R	
	CDT Cullimore		SGT Withers	
	CDT Anderson		SGT Smith	
	CDT Swain			
	CDT Vallance		To Warrant Officer	F/S Cotton
	CDT Clark N			
	CDT Trenberth		To Under Officer	F/S O'Connor
	LAC Page			W/O Whitcombe
	CDT O'Regan		To Flying Officer	
CDT Yang	PLTOFF Wech			
CDT Collett				
To Sergeant	CPL Poulsen			
	CPL Siddall			
	CPL Watson			
	CPL Sutton			
	CPL Price			
	CPL Jones			
	CPL Saville			

Unit Commander's Address

Well another successful year for our unit. We have had a good year with lots of camps and the creation of a new camp called Red Flag. This was run at Omaka camp and was focused around a fun water based activity. The camp was a resounding success. Also this year the Unit has won the South Island Drill competition and I have also just received the news that we have been judged the Most Efficient ATC unit in NZ. All in all a great way to finish off the year.



So onto next year where I hope we can continue our successes and continue to grow the unit, also remember next year will be Wanaka Warbirds so the Cadets will have that to look forward to.

In closing I would like to thank all the cadets for turning up to parades and activities, to the NCO's for the same and the additional effort they put in to help things run smoothly, to the Under Officers and Officers who give up countless hours of time to make sure the unit is the best it can be and keep the Cadets interested, to the support committee who help to fund all the activities that we undertake and lastly to everyone who assisted the unit in its two days of fundraising at the Addington Races, this was a fantastic fundraising opportunity for the unit and we will be seeking everyone's help again next year.

Once again thank you to everyone for the things you do to make 17 Sqn what we are.

Regards,

Shane Cole QSM
Squadron Leader, NZCF
Unit Commander

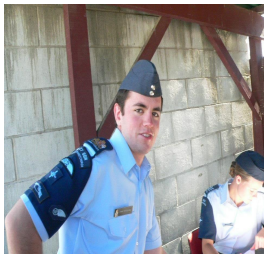


The Warrant Officer's Wrap Up



I am **THE** Warrant Officer. For me 2013 has been one of my best years in Cadet Forces. They say a change is as good as holiday. My move from 36 SQN Greymouth to 17 SQN has certainly been that, albeit a working holiday.

The changes I faced were both small and large; the way that the ensign is folded, the parade format and just the sheer number of cadets at the unit. I could not have fitted into the unit without the help of the other NCOs and the Officer team. I have come to believe that 17 SQN really is the best unit in the country¹.



¹ This official looking footnote obviously makes the previous statement a confirmed fact. Refer to results of the National Air League Trophy on the previous page.

The journey that each person at the Unit undertakes each year is different and has been interesting for me to observe. The Basic Flight who arrived shy and quiet (some not so quiet) at the beginning of the year have evolved into a group that has shown some great potential throughout the year. They have come a long way from the riff raff (in a polite way) that arrived at Recruit Camp. Keep up the good work the Unit still has a lot to offer you and you have a lot to offer it.

The Proficiency Flight... where to begin? It has been great to see this group develop in maturity and leadership throughout the year. Congratulations to all those who got promoted!! To the others of the group, stick in there - I was once in your position. Don't give up. Always strive to be better, remember the 17 SQN goal of "continuous improvement". You are still a valued member of the SQN and with the knowledge you have gained over your two years at ATC you have a lot to offer.

As is normal the Advanced Flight numbers were small as promotions came and interest waned. However, the group that remained, in general, set a good example for younger cadets.

The credit for the quality of the camps and other activities this year must once again go to the officer team and the support staff ☺. All usual camps went ahead with the addition of Exercise Redflag. My personal favourite was the ABL camp for NCOs run at the beginning of the year. We were pushed outside our comfort zone being wet, cold, tired and hungry and still expected to perform set tasks. The euphoria that was felt on pulling a boat from a ditch brought the NCOs together at the end of a testing day. This was a great test for all of us and I came away feeling that the NCO team was more closely bonded than before.



Our involvement in the community was once again strong. We held the annual costume night in term 3. There was a superb turnout with some sublime efforts on show. UO Ross arrived in a Wall-E outfit. There was also a legion of transformers, pirates, ghosts, zombies a hobo amongst many others. I enjoyed my time as a fire fighter. The money raised went to the children's ward to assist in speeding up diagnosis. Other cadets in the unit also fundraised. There was also a solid turnout to ANZAC day parade held in Cranmer Square. It was moving ceremony and the high standard of 17 SQN cadets was noted.

Fundraising this year was completed over only two days. During Cup Day, parents, officers and NCOs picked up rubbish with cadets arriving in the evening to do a sweep of the facilities. The large turnout enabled the task to be completed quickly. Many thanks to those who gave up their time. The highlight of the day was my appearance on Jono and Ben at 10.

It has been a busy year full of achievement with 17 SQN once again leading the way amongst other Units around the country. It has been a complete privilege being the W/O for 2013 and it is a year that I will take a lot from. Have a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. **WO Whitcombe**



Flight Sergeants Debrief



Flight 1: Spitfire (F/S Withers)

Started off with the old cadets and new drill was a shocker and uniform too the amount who could stand at attention just a few and in lessons they hadn't a clue but by the end of the year it had all turned around not a problem in uniform to be found in drill they were in-time and snappy which of course made me proud and happy so thank you all members of Spitfire Flight you guys turned out just right.

Flight 2: Mustang (F/S Smith)

The second half of this year saw me obtain the grand responsibility of being the privileged Flight Commander for Number Two Flight. Our journey began with drill taught by our corporals under the guidance of our stellar sergeants, and will continue into the new year as more NCO's get to experience this wonderful flight. I would personally like to thank my flight for their efforts and their continuous improvement in all that they do. If this was a radio broadcast, I would like to make a shout out to my supporting F/S Basham for support and hard work with the flight. Keep shining those shoes and very soon they will shine as much as you.

Flight 3: Harvard (F/S Pugh)

"In western Wigram, born and raised, on the parade ground is where I spent most of my days; chillin' out maxin' and drillin' all cool and hanging with Harvard outside of the walls.

When a couple of a cadets who were up to no good, started causing trouble in our neighbourhood!" But that didn't stop Number 3 Flight. I'm so proud to have been the Flight Sergeant of such a dedicated bunch of cadets who consistently gave it their all. (And raked in those flight points!)

Flight 4: Hurricane (F/S Cotton)

Wow, what another busy year it has been! Where has the year gone?! I became joint Flight

Commander alongside A/SGT Withers at the beginning of the year before we were both promoted to SGT. In July I was lucky enough to become a F/S and the 'official' Flight Commander of Hurricane.

I have loved every moment of commanding Number 4 Flight; from taking them on parade to getting to know the fun, weird and wacky about my Cadets. I have watched my Cadets grow both mentally and physically (which is a little embarrassing when I spend most of my time looking up at them!) during the year and develop their skills so they too can hopefully be in my position in the not so distant future. Thank you to SGT Siddall who was my right-hand man (well, woman...) and Flight Commander on the occasions when I was A/WO. Both I and the flight would not have survived without your willingness to help. Lastly, a big well done to the Cadets of number 4 Flight; you have all put in hard work this year and I love seeing all your smiling faces on Thursday evenings. Keep putting in the effort and the rewards will come. I hope you have enjoyed ATC this year and I hope to see you all back for an even better 2014!

Drill Team

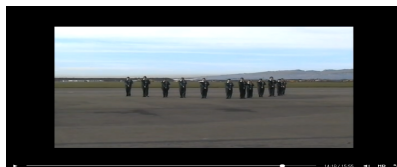
No.3 Squadron Cup Drill Competition Champions



Each year, a small team of cadets give up a couple of hours each weekend and sometimes even from their week days to train towards one goal, to become the best Air Training Corps Drill Team in the country. This task was executed in two phases, the 3 Squadron Drill

Trophy, competed by units in Southern Area, and the Davy Memorial Drill Competition, pitting the best team from each of the three areas against each other.

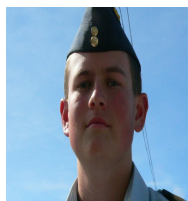
After many weeks of 'intense' practice mixed with more than everyone's fair share of messing about, and the odd gaffe, "What if you were in a squite or a flod?" 17 squadron's drill team, under the command of F/S Withers was ready to compete in the first competition of the year in March. We won with flying colours and a snazzy set of turns on the march..... *(clears throat)*. With one piece of silverware in the cabinet, and an Iroquois flight later on, the team began looking forward to the National Competition, to be held later in the year.



Davy Memorial was held in June, which gave us plenty of not-a-lot-of-time to polish up the drill and invent a new ceremonial movement. Everybody rose to the challenge and by the time the weekend of the competition rolled around, we were ready. One overnight stay at the block and about eight litres of ice cream later, it was show time. Everyone pulled off a great routine and the result was now out of our hands and in the mitts of SGT Mateara, New Zealand Army. We were up against 19 Squadron, from Auckland and 10 Squadron; Palmy.

And the results were in. We came second to 10 Squadron, who were undoubtedly aided by the turncoat Under Officer Hoult. ☺ A bit of a flat end to an otherwise stellar year of drill team, but there was a great effort by all involved throughout the year.

It was a privilege to be able to work with such a fun group of individuals and I wish you all the best of luck in apprehending the Davy Memorial Trophy and returning it to its rightful place at 17 Squadron next year.



UO A. Vincent
Manager
17 Squadron Drill Team
2013



ANZAC DAY



LEST WE FORGET

Cranmer Square – Dawn Parade



The 25th of April was and is a really moving day to remember. Some cadets went to the Air Force Museum memorial to set up and as representatives for 17 Squadron. When setting up the seats for the service you get to meet other cadets from different Squadrons and units to ATC. You have lots of fun when it's appropriate, like when you get to talk and make jokes. It gets hot really quickly when wearing your jumper and it

also doesn't help that there are a lot of bodies in a room at the same time. Then once the seats have all been laid out nicely, you go up to the balcony and let the ceremony begin. It is a very important and moving moment as soon as the speech begins. Prayers were said and we stood at attention to show our respect to those that were lost and to those that are still living. We listened to the Last Post. Everyone was silent as it played. This was really moving. Our representative went up and lay down our wreath as a sign of respect to the people who were lost and are still living. **Lest we forget. CDT Hinter Leitner**

Having been woken from our much needed sleep, eight hours they say, on an exceptionally ordinary Canterbury morning, we cadets (and officers) clambered out of bed. Upon arrival at Cranmer Square, we were faced with the almost impossible mission of finding LAC Boss for a 'roll call' aka locate Boss and give her your name. After twiddling our thumbs and just general socialising, we were instructed to form up the parade in ranks of three, this was soon changed to ranks of five as we were far too long, occupying the whole street. After a quick reshuffle the band began to play. It was far too early for a brass band wake up call however the parade crawled to a start. By the time the band had reached the corner of the park, the second half of the parade began to march. Well I say 'march' I think we all enjoy a good basic attempt to march and to top it off there's always one monkey marcher. Mark time was called as eager as we were, we caught up to the first half of the parade. By this stage the cadets were an orchestral running sound. Eventually we were halted in our designated space smack bang in the front of the stage. The service was as exciting as ever; people fainting, a hymn or two, the odd person vomiting. Everything was going as expected until the Australian flag bearer dropped the flag on the ground when lowering it to half mast. He soon recovered the flag and ran it back up the pole. When it came time for the volley, that they clearly weren't paying attention for, as instead of one 'BANG!!!' It went down the rank; bang bang bang bang bang bang. Six consecutive bangs. After that the service was pretty much the same as every other year. **CDT Graham**



Harewood memorial service

The Harewood memorial was a very respectful service to remember those who gave their lives in times of war in their service of this country. When the service began the cenotaph guards marched onto the steps of the cenotaph. Then the church minister stood in front of the cenotaph and gave a short service in memory of the fallen soldiers and read out their names. Following the reading the gathered congregation sang hymns to show respect and give thanks.



This service displayed some of our core values: **Respect**, we showed our respect for those who died in war by being there on ANZAC day. **Loyalty** by going to the service, after all it is just an hour a year, yet those that fought in the war were fighting for years, is but one hour anything in comparison for all that they did for us? **Discipline**, we conducted ourselves in a responsible and respectful manner by standing at ease, just listening to the church minister give his service. LAC Barrie played the Last Post and Rouse on the bugle, and then there was a minute's silence. The sun began to rise and streaks of light began to illuminate the clouds. A fitting tribute to those men and women who gave their lives so that we can enjoy our freedom. **CPL Vallance**

The sun had already risen when we arrived at the Harewood Dawn Service. As the crowd started to arrive, we slowly merged into a rank to wait for the beginning of the service. Under Officer Farrow briefed us on the service and gave us explicit instructions not to faint. If we felt bad, we were to go down on one knee and wait for somebody to take us away. By this time, there was less than twenty of us and about a crowd of two hundred! Under Officer Vincent marched the NCO's onto the cenotaph with their Norincos. They took their positions on the corners of the cenotaph. Pilot Officer Pendlly brought us to attention and the service began.

As we stood at attention, the Church Minister addressed the crowd. They sang a few hymns to honour the dead. We also sang the New Zealand National Anthem. When this happened, Pilot Officer Pendlly stood us at ease (otherwise we were supposed to sing) and then back to attention afterwards. Cadet Barrie then played the well known piece The Last Post on his bugle. Then, to commemorate the deceased, we had a minute's silence. Wreaths were then laid on the Cenotaph and the names of the dead from that region read out. There were a few names of troops that fought for our country on the cenotaph. Many families were descendants of troops that fought in the war.

After the end of the service, the Church Minister gave the crowd the chance to lay wreaths and poppies onto the cenotaph. Though, the NCO's stayed on guard while the crowd remained. The service slowly came to an end. Pilot Officer Pendlly fell us out of the rank and we were free to leave the service. Many people stayed behind to talk though. It was a very moving event. **CDT Luke Trenberth**

Citizen's Service

Mid morning on ANZAC day, I arrived at Christ's College with the instructions of finding the building which looks like a church. Giving up, I followed the perimeter of the College's sacred grass (which many people did walk on that day as evident by the footsteps left in the dew) to find the other youth organisations attending the service. The Citizen's Service began at 10am, with various representatives from the Defence Force, Consular Corps and youth organisations such as Boy Scouts, St John and Air Training Corps attending. Those of us who came from 17 Squadron were tasked with escorting various flags including the New Zealand Flag and the RSA Colour. The address at the service was given by CDR A.M. Millar, MNZM Royal New Zealand Navy and basically the service consisted of various speeches, songs and prayers. Our job was to escort the flags into the service and then out of the service doing something between a quick march and a slow march. On leaving the service, we stood outside the Chapel, with the rest of the flag bearers and their escorts forming a corridor which the people attending the service walked through as they left. Due to our flags being the New Zealand and RSA ones, we were the last into the service and the first out of it. Attending this service made me feel privileged and proud to be in uniform, especially being able to escort the New Zealand Flag on such an important day in the history of our country; commemorating and remembering those who fought so we could still be here today. **SGT Smith**

Senior NCO Course May 2013

Along with A/SGT Dowie, A/SGT Pugh, A/SGT Smith and A/SGT Withers (however we all had to be corporals for the duration of the course!) I attended the Southern Area Senior Leaders Course in the second week of the term 1 school holidays. The first two days came to a close with lesson after lesson, followed by more lessons, with a little bit of drill thrown in if we were lucky! However, the middle of the week became more interesting as we had our leadership tasks. This consisted of writing a full GSMEAC and leading our whole syndicate (about 10 people) through an outdoor task. The weather decided to severely dampen our high spirits which came with getting outside, by drenching us with a massive non-stop downpour all day, a thunderstorm and a high of 7 degrees! Luckily, this was only for our practice day and the weather decided to be kind for our terminal test the next day. We also had to teach a 10 minute practical knots lesson, a 20 minute practice theory lesson and our 20 minute terminal lesson during the week. Our last full day saw lots of drill, with our terminals for our Senior NCO parade commanding and final parade. It was such a full-on week but I had a great time. The people you meet make the course and you become close to everyone so quickly. I made some great life-long friends and you discover things about yourself you never knew!

F/S Cotton

Senior NCO Course July 2013

One sunny afternoon in the middle of July
Congregated a group of teenagers including I
Entered Burnham Military Camp for a while
For a course that was really a trial
They knew full well that the next week
Was going to be far from bleak
Because they knew what was in store
Which was fun times galore
Although the first couple of days went slower
That did not stop the bonds that grew stronger
Like groups that were only formed for a minute
(Syndicate Swag represent)
Or syndicates that remained for the course
Whose teamwork combined would have been stronger than a horse
Heck even the roommates were amazing
With efforts that were well worth praising
Food that was created in heaven
And beds that had to look even
Even though music was sparse
We survived through Mickey Mouse
There were even some pranks too
If you give Sar Major a teabag I can not imagine what he will do
Lessons, leadership and drill
Each day was as absolute thrill
Everyone passed which was splendid
But it seemed as soon as it started it had ended
A privilege that only comes once in a lifetime
Can only be done so much justice in a rhyme.

SGT Marie Watson

Junior NCO Course May 2013

It was a nervous afternoon as O'Regan and I arrived at the main gates of Burnham Military Camp where we were marched to the HQ to have our ID photos taken and handed in any electronic devices we had. The barracks we stayed in during the course was called 'Dieppe' and we all got our individual rooms so we unpacked and got settled in. The first two days involved rain, lessons in the conference room and lots of milo during breaks. After a few days the NCOs become less mean and start to smile a bit but the officers were nice the entire course. No one else from 17 SQN was on the course so O'Regan and I was on our own and to make it even worse we were split into different syndicates, but lucky we both made other friends quickly. The daily routine was easy; get up at 0600 hours, 30 second showers, march to the mess for breakfast, inspections, lessons, back to mess for lunch (sometimes we had packed lunches), back to lessons, go to mess again for dinner, more lessons, some free time and then we sleep. On Thursday morning we had to get up extra early to attend the ANZAC service at Burnham. Thursday and Friday were the days when we did our terminal assessments and I'm happy to say that O'Regan and I passed them all.

Saturday was the day that we get to go home and sleep (everyone was very tired) so we packed all our belongings the night before and just chilled and listened to music since we got our phones back. The people that came from places like Nelson and Invercargill left early in the morning so a lot of us didn't get the chance to say goodbye but we got each other's numbers. The few of us who were left just talked about all the good times we had during the course like when everyone stood up and threw teabags at the cadet officer in charge after the debrief of the course. Time passed fast and I enjoyed this course a lot, I'm looking forward to seeing my new friends again in future camps or courses. :D

CPL Yang

Junior NCO Course July 2013

July 13th 2013 waiting, thinking not knowing what was going to happen next we packed our oversized bags into a van and said our goodbyes to our families. We go into Burnham Military Camp for Junior NCO Course 2013 Term 2. Lining up outside a room we get our room keys and say good bye to our cell phones, iPods and food then get our mug shots taken. Going over to our new home for 8 days we are wondering what's going to happen to us. We drop our bags and march over to the Theatrette to meet all the others having the same thoughts as us. Off we go to the mess and have dinner. The food was the absolute best, dessert every night and potato wedges to die for, well let's just put it this way if I had stayed for any longer I would have to be running every morning. After that we meet the amazing staff and try to get to know everyone better. Then off to bed talking to all the girls in the process. Up in the morning, off to breakfast into lessons, practices, assessments and just trying to dodge the rain. This became a normal routine for us over the next couple of days. In between the 360's, swag marching, too many straight as comments we could count and just having a good time. With some of our new best friends it was finally time to get out of uniform into civvies. Leadership!!! At this time we were already great friends with our syndicates so adding in running around, leadership and teamwork was just crazily amazing. Sadly we had to do our terminal assessment, also known to us as death assessments. By the end of all our assessments everyone had passed but this meant we only had one and a half days to go. We had our passing out parade, reading our course reports and getting our course photo. We had to say all our good byes that night. This was one of the hardest things to do, knowing we would come out with more than 40 new friends and a few tools to add to our tool box.

CPL Swain

Trenberth, Clark, Swain, and Vallance after completing the JNCO Course.





Junior NCO Course September 2013

The way I was told that I was going on Juniors was quite different to the norm. Other course attendants had been told weeks previously, and therefore had plenty of time to both physically and mentally prepare themselves. I was told three days before I was due to leave. This was quite a shock, and left me feeling both excited and terrified. There were three speeches that had to be written for the course (although I didn't have much of a disadvantage there as my fellow attendees hadn't prepared anything substantial either) along with assessments on squad handling, drill teaching and leadership, all of which I hadn't been given time nor an opportunity to prepare for. That was the terrified part. But I was also excited, because I had actually been chosen to go on this course, which is quite an honour in itself. I was going with some of my best friends from the squadron, and by the time I got back (if I had passed) I would be ready to take on the responsibilities of a Junior NCO.

When I arrived at Burnham Military Camp, I really didn't know what to expect. Was the camp going to be physically challenging? Mentally challenging? Were the people there going to be nice? Or would there be an awful lot of yelling? These questions and more were running through my mind when I met with cadets Anderson and Buchanon outside the front gates. Eventually, we were called through and entered the place which would be our home for the next week.

A generic day on the Junior NCO Course went something like this. A knock on the door and "Good Morning" from the Staff Sergeant at around 6 am, which was a very nice change from the yelling and frenzied wake-up routine I have become used to on my camps with the ATC. We were given half an hour to all have showers and get changed into uniform, ready to be marched over to the mess for breakfast. Once there, we were usually chastised for being late before being treated to an invariable breakfast of sausages, baked beans and potatoes. Afterwards, the barracks needed to be prepared for inspection, which meant rearranging clothes on clothes hangars, ironing bedsheets and meticulously three-finger-spacing everything from drawers to windows. After inspection, it was time for the day's activities. This could mean anything from sitting in a lecture room, being taught the basics of leadership or speechwriting or drill instruction, to wandering around a field half-building a swing set from ropes and sticks before half-unbuilding it again. We would either be carrying our lunch around with us or go over to the mess again and eat there. The lessons took most of the day, stretching from after breakfast to before dinner. Again, we went to the mess for dinner, but there was much more variety in the meals than at breakfast. During the week there was pasta, lamb roast, chicken, and curry, among many other things. They were all cooked to a very high standard and I found myself impressed with the army cook's food preparing prowess. After dinner was dessert, which was always magnificent. I remember in particular a fruit crumble, which was creamy and spicy and crunchy all at once. I reckon I could have finished the whole tray myself, it was that good. Once we had all finished dinner, we were split up into our syndicates (rather like school houses) and sent to our syndicate rooms for a few hours. This time was meant to be spent in preparation for a speech, or memorising the drill commands or something equally productive, but it was mostly used as a relaxation and socialisation time after the long day. As is to be expected with several over-tired teenagers in close proximity with each other, towards the end of the week tempers occasionally flared, but all conflicts were resolved through the overall maturity of the group, with the combatants moving to places where they wouldn't annoy each other. We had about an hour or so in the barracks before it was

lights out, and it was during this time that one of the most memorable events on the entire camp happened. I had brought my guitar to use during the final 10-minute speech (the act of bringing the guitar was the majority of preparation I did for the course in what little time I had) and Staff Sergeant convinced me to let him have a go with it. A few minutes later, most of the boys downstairs had been drawn to the sound of the guitar, so we moved out into the corridor. Before long, the girls had joined us, and eventually the whole course was clustered into that one corridor, arm in arm, swaying to the beat of the music and singing (being used in its broadest general sense) as Staff walked up and down the corridor, strumming the chords to Jeff Buckley's "Hallelujah". Then it was lights out, and we had to sleep in the same beds we'd spent so much time and effort making perfect in the morning. The last night and day were different. Every attendant at the course had passed it, and there was no more study left to do. We were marched to a room filled with computers, and played a team deathmatch war simulation game used to train the military. Ironically, there was more killing of team-mates than of enemies. Later that night, we ended up watching a movie in the lecture room and being served hot chocolate, but the movie went overtime and we ended up getting to bed an hour later than we were supposed to. The next morning we got up at 5 am, to farewell the cadets who had come from further away in the South Island. Eventually, it was our time to leave. We all piled into the van, waved goodbye to the friends and enemies we had made, and after doing a circuit of the camp we were delivered to our waiting parents.

This Course is one of the most memorable experiences of my life to date. I will never forget it, nor will I forget the numerous friends I made. I will always look back on that week of my life with a certain fondness, and also a quiet gladness that it's over and I don't have to get up before dawn every morning. **CDT Dickson**



Under Officers' Course January 2013

At the beginning of the year, four Under Officers and our previous Warrant Officer travelled up to the Police Training College in Wellington for the Under Officers Course. We began with the traditional team-building activity. This involved searching the entire College for 10 ammo tins after receiving bizarre clues to their location rather than a map. The hardest part of this however, was the four flights of stairs we needed to climb every time we found one. Most of the remaining week was dedicated to lessons, but nearing the end we were rewarded. A day with the police. We started with a run through the Police Competency Test (obstacle course), followed by the range where we learnt about all of the equipment that a Police Officer carries and even a try at their virtual firing range. Later we had a presentation by the Recruiter and went to the Police Museum. All in all it was a fantastic week. We all had fun, made new friends, learned a heap of new stuff, and even got to fire a virtual police handgun at a projector screen. Best week of the year. **UO Farrow**

Under Officers' Course April 2013

This April I attended the 2013 Under Officers' Course held at Woodbourne Air Force Base. I was exciting about catching up with friends I had made on other courses, such as the Senior and Junior NCO Courses. After a 5-hour van ride from Burnham, we finally arrived to find a meal waiting for us at the mess. The next 6 days were pretty full on, with paper work and Under Officer Parade Appointments. I particularly enjoyed the independence that the Directing Staff gave to us, to perform tasks by a given deadline. I would highly recommend this course to any F/S or W/O who is coming up through the ranks. **UO Varcoe**

3 Sqn Cup - Southern Area Drill Competition

Signing up for Drill Team this year was again just as scary and exciting as last year, this time, not because I was a Basic Cadet and new to the whole experience, but for the fact that this time, we had only about a month of practice time. With this in mind, we unfortunately could not allow Basic Cadets from 2013 to join, as they were still learning how to march properly. There was about half of 2012's Drill Team who joined up, plus a bunch of Proficiency Cadets (second year cadets like me), which was much to the Officers' surprise. Because who wants to spend hours on end turning on the spot, marching across a parade ground in the cold and attempting to perfect all the tricky stuff like salutes, DPTA drill (DPTA=Drill Purpose Training Aids. They look like wooden guns that cannot shoot, but we pretend that they can, so we treat them as if they are loaded weapons, and ceremonial movements? Apparently we did. So like I said, we spent hours training over the few weeks we had and finally the competition came around. Unfortunately we could not have the usual sleepover we have on the weekend of the competition because it had to be held on Easter Weekend, which a lot of cadets were going away for, or the Thursday before that. So we chose the Thursday, after UO Vincent assured us that there could be a sleepover for the National Competition if we happened to win. That Thursday, we all rushed to block to compete and we did so without fail, except for a few minor mistakes. But those hours of training paid off because a few weeks later, we got the results back that we had won! What was our prize? More drill practice for the next competition. Oh, and what we were all most excited for, our Irigoien Flight! Yippee! I cannot wait for more drill next year. **CDT Clark N.**



1st Place



SCHOLARSHIP 2013

In January 2013 I had the privilege to attend the RNZAF Flying Scholarship on RNZAF base Ohakea along with three other people from all over New Zealand. We got to experience the life of a pilot on the wings course, and all the stages they had to go through. Such as safety, lessons, gear fitting, discipline, sport, study, flying, and best of all the aerobatics. Each day started off at 0530 wake up, and got all our gear ready for the days work. Breakfast would start at 0630 and followed by the morning brief at the Pilot Training Squadron (PTS)

where we would sit for 15 minutes and take notes on the days forecast, so we knew exactly what runway to take off and land on. But most importantly, find out whether or not it was a good day to do a flying sortie. After which we would make our way through a long hallway with every course's photo and patch on the wall, from those courses which have previously graduated. We would sit down in our lecture room to study, learn, or wait for our flight. As the days passed by, and the more confident we got. The more we became in charge of the aircraft. By three weeks of flying we were all at the stage of taking full control of the aircraft, from all the checks to radio calls, formation take offs, and flying the Air Trainers (Red Checkers planes). And while the view was amazing, and the tail chases were quite a rush, there was nothing that could explain the feeling of having done several aerobatic manoeuvres yourself (after allot of practice). From spins, flips, rolls, loops, and formation aerobatics with another CT4-E only a couple of metres away. However as all good things do, it came to an end. And it was time to say our farewells and goodbyes.

F/S Basham





The Battle of Britain Parade

This year some people from ATC were lucky enough to go to the Battle of Britain Parade. This parade commemorated The Battle of Britain, which was a campaign in World War 2 fought entirely by air forces. The Germans attacked Britain in the Summer and Autumn of 1940. The objective of the campaign was to gain control of the skies and damage production of RAF (Royal Air Force) planes so that they could invade Britain afterwards. The Germans did this by firstly attacking the coastal shipping centres, and then moving on to airfields and infrastructure, and finally aircraft factories. Luckily the Germans did not succeed in this or there is a possibility we would all be speaking German right now! The reason ATC participated in this ceremony was to show our respect for the New Zealand Pilots that went away and fought in this battle. Both the dead and the living. Many of whom accomplished great things in their fights. The ceremony itself was simple but good. It even had a little band play for us. A priest spoke of the great deeds of the pilots while we listened in silence and then the band would play and we would stand at attention. The ceremony went fast and before we knew it, it had finished. I must say that it was a good little event to go to, and I hope next year we go again.

CDT Lewis Poulsen

Recruit Camp

For me as a Basic, camp was great!

Before the camp I was struggling with drill, ironing, shoe polishing and discipline. All the things ATC are about. But after attending 'Recruit Camp' with the Air Training Corps 17 Squadron, I not only learnt these skills, but so much more.

We learnt and gained all sorts of necessary qualities that will assist us so many ways. We covered team building, orienteering skills, uniform maintenance and how to handle a firearm (that was my favourite). I believe 'Recruit Camp' is an incredible opportunity and the reason, even us Basics, are understanding and enjoying '17 Squadron'.

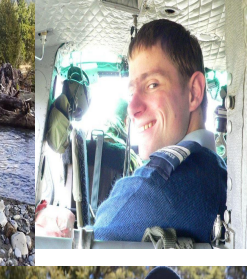
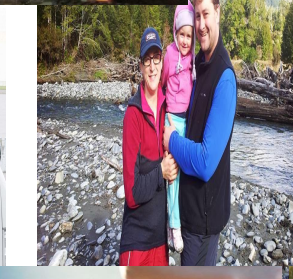
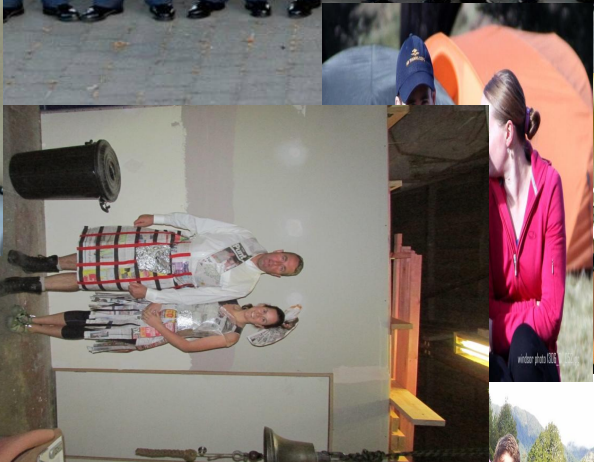
CDT Enright

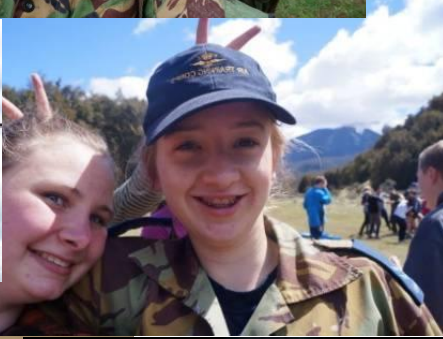


Sparrowhawk



Officer Team







Photos from the Year

Recruit Camp

Basic Recruit Camp this year was a lot of fun. This year, held at West Melton Army range, we covered a wide range of subjects and held many activities.

Once we all arrived at the base, we only had time for one or two lessons before supper and then it was time to join our comfortable crunchy pillows and get some sleep.

We all woke to the lovely sound of NCO's yelling at us to get outside for PT. Though this was no ordinary PT. It was tough PT. We ran, did prone holds, side prone holds, squats, push-ups, sit ups, sprints. You name it and we probably did it. All this at 6am! When we were all hot and sweaty, the Warrant Officer finally called it quits and told us to get our towels ready for the much deserved showers. Breakfast was called after that, and we all got some food for the next round of rotations. We did many different activities that morning such as drill, leadership activities, games and puzzles. These were all enjoyable and we had a lot of fun. The rotations then continued.



After dinner, while we were having a lesson from UO Wootton, he was captured by terrorists. Our job then became to locate him and stop the bomb they had set up, threatening the world. We split up into teams and used our newly discovered night movement skills to stay undetected from the terrorists that were roaming the area. After a few hours, he was located and the world was saved. After a quick drink, it was off to bed with us, ready for the next day.

On Sunday morning, luckily there was no PT. It was showers and straight to breakfast! Though, it was that day that we were due to go home. So after showers and breakfast, we packed up our barracks and all the facilities that we used over the course of the camp. Though, that was not the end of camp. It was time to go shooting! We marched down the road to the area where the rifle range had been set up. While some cadets were shooting, the others played either touch rugby or soccer. Once everybody had a chance to shoot, it was time to go back to base. Lunch was sausages as usual, no attempts at breaking the record of 14 sausages. After that, it was time to pick up our bags and leave.

CPL Trenberth

Exercise Frostybird

After arriving at the car park we all formed up and tramped up to the campsite. We had supper we then went to bed. On arrival we were assigned tents (which were thankfully already set up). The next day started with PT and breakfast, after that we had lots of fun lessons like how to make a fire and first aid as well as team building exercises.

That night we had the night ex. This night ex was the opposite of the Recruit Camp one where instead of hiding from the NCO's, the NCO's hid from us. Everyone set off searching the camp. Some were hiding in trees, others in bushes and even right in



The next day we had a group activity where we had to find hidden slips of paper with numbers on them. Searching through a gorse patch was not my favourite part of the camp.

On the fourth day it started raining so we stayed inside our tents for the first half of the morning, then we quickly packed the tents and headed back to the car park.

Overall, I loved Frostybird. I got to meet cadets from other squadrons and I got to know the cadets in my squadron a whole lot better. **CDT Borelli**

Exercise Frostybird was so much fun with the tramps and activities I would recommend for anyone to go. It started Friday night where we all drove out to Coopers Creek where the camp was and this year some of 24 (Ashburton) Squadron was there. We woke up at what seemed to be the crack of dawn and did PT (physical training), then the Basics went to their lessons and Prof and Advanced got ready for their tramps, there was a choice of hard or extra hard I choose hard. The extra hard tramp went up to the summit of Mt. Oxford only to find out that there was no camp site for them to stay so they had to come back down the mountain gear and all and camped out in a paddock for the night. The hard Tramp went to Ryde falls we left about 10ish and it took us about 3 hours to tramp there, it was a really fun tramp there were a lot of uphill and down hills and a lot of mud. When we arrived we set up our tents. Cadet Swain and I had a very difficult tent but we got there in the end, after camp was all set up we went on a walk to the water fall. It was an amazing sight, on our way back we had a first aid scenario and I personally think we all handled it quite well. That night we had a camp fire and were lucky enough to have a radio which was pretty awesome. On our way back to camp we were directed on a different route, where we walked through a shallow river and bashed through prickly bushes. Once we were back at camp we unpacked, had lunch then we were in to orienteering which was really fun and my group did quite well, during the orienteering we had a first aid scenario and then we had free time. The next day it was raining so we stayed in our tents all day with the NCO's rotating with different things for us to do which was quite entertaining. After this we went into the cabin had debriefing and went home this camp was so much fun and I can't wait for next year's.

CDT Catto



Powered Flying

We arrived at the Base and as we retrieved our bags from the bus, we were called into an NZCF Car. I met our Barracks Master, UO Lacey. We pulled up to Wigram barracks and wandered into the hot stuffy lounge. The next 10 days were amazing. I can't quite explain the feeling of being in control of and inside a metal box hurtling through the sky. We didn't get to fly as much as I had hoped but we were never bored. We were able to go to Omaka Museum and see the amazing displays. There were amazing meals at the base, every day was different and we were never hungry. Everyday we went to the ground school and learnt how all the controls work and then we were ready to fly. It was amazing seeing everyone's success. When a cadet came back from solo they would be doused with water. I am truly thankful to have had the chance to have this amazing experience.

CDT Collett

Top Squad

Top Squad is run by the Ashburton Cadet Corps, down in Ashburton. Some highlights from the camp were fire making, the truck rides and definitely the Tug of War, which we definitely won (we lost). First of all, we arrived at camp, only a few hours before going to bed. We ate supper and were given an entire hour to get ourselves to bed! After finishing the unpacking, we just sat around and ate lollies until lights out.

On this camp, unlike a 17 Sqn camp, we had lots of time to get ready and to do anything, and everything seemed a little bit more relaxed than a 17 Squadron camp. Some of the activities we did on this camp were the three-legged cross country, fire starting, first aid and lots more. Our team was good at first aid, cross country and the leadership exercises. So as you can see so far, there were lots of great things about this camp, but there were some down sides. the food for one, it was pretty good as my standards go, but it was nowhere near as good as 17 Squadron's, like there was no hash brown or bacon, but they did have some things that we didn't, like a whole pig, duck and lots and lots of caramel. The other thing that was a bit of a let down was the Night X. But when I say night X, I'm not sure if it even was a night X or whether we just ran out of time for it. What we did was, we had one eye closed for half an hour and that ended up creating our night vision. Then we went for a walk in the forest and tested our night vision and then we came back. And that was about it for that. On the last day we had a giant clean up, but the NCOs taking it were no way near as strict as our NCOs. We didn't have to do star jumps for every bit of rubbish we missed (that was probably why no one did a good job). So that sums up the good and the bad things about Top Squad. I will definitely be going back next year if I get the opportunity.

CDT Cullimore

Top Squad was an inter-corps competition to find the Top Squad. We were put in groups of eight to take on the Sea and Army Cadets in multiple challenges and activities. We took part in many physical activities like running, push-ups and curl-ups, tug of war, three legged race and stretcher runs. These activities were designed to challenge us and help us to get better. Also we had many mental



activities like GSK, Observation, and others. I found these as more of a challenge because it put a strain on my brain and confused me but from these activities, I gained the knowledge to conquer these challenges and overcome them.

There were also survival skills like bivvy building, fire lighting, first aid and night vision. These activities I found I enjoyed the most as they taught me practical skills that may help me later in life. As well as this, these activities were the most interesting and taught leadership and teamwork as it is essential that you work as a team when you are tending to a patient.

Overall I found that though we did not win all of the mental & physical challenges, the survival skills learned were practical and will help me in the future.

CDT James

Exercise Oasis



When? Last weekend of the holidays.

What? An overnight tramp.

Where? Lake Daniels!

Who? FLTLTs Rebecca and Colin Jacka, UO Adam Vincent, a bunch of Prof cadets, one brave basic and 2 year old Amelia.

Why? Because we can!

How? Magic.

On the Friday night we all turned up at the base, all loaded up with packs and enthusiasm. We had a gear check, borrowed some stuff, then played cards and twister. Oh and the Officers let us loose in the supermarket!! For the sole purpose of getting more food. So once we all had excessive amounts of lollies and energy drinks, we jumped back in the van to drive off into the distance. After..... Let's say... maybe... 3 hours of stunning scenery (roads) aaaaand car sickness and really just ya-know, roadtrip stuff, we arrived at the start. Food, then on with the packs, and off we went along the track. It was pretty awesome. Honestly the whole place looked like something out of a film, it was gorgeous and there were trees that tasted like ice-cream. There was also Dora, and the Wonderpets, but no mudmud,mud,mud⁴. Eventually we came to this clearing, with a nice lil hut sitting in it, and in front of that? A huge lake. It was beautiful, so clear it was almost reflective, yet a deep blue at the same time. And so it happened, quite freezing...

Ask Maikuku. We spent the night in the hut, j chillin. Next morning involved brekkie, clean-up, fire-building aaaaand time to tramp back. Turns out we'd all had too much raro and

pretty much flew back, crossing exactly 152 bridges (or in some cases, falling through them...ahem... Catto, Swain) and then spent some lovely time skipping stones across the river, more road trip, took over a playground, got back to base, washed van. Byeee!

CDT Buchanan



LASER STRIKE

On the 29th of June, my fellow ATC members and I participated in the exhilarating game of laser tag at none other than Christchurch's own, Laser Strike. Laser tag is a game of war. Participants are split into two teams, each member receiving their own laser gun. Throughout the game, members of each team sneak through the dark maze at the battle ground in an attempt to find another player of the opposing team. By shooting a player in a target you momentarily disable them and gain points. Players, however, need great stealth as to avoid being noticed and shot at from the opposing team. I found this really fun because I enjoy shooting people. On one occasion they split us into CDTs and NCOs, in this game the CDTs team won and I received the 'best player award' by scoring 4460 points. I highly recommend this game to every one of all ages. And I would love to go again!

CDT Lafaele

Exercise Ardua

On the weekend of the 6th - 8th of September Exercise Ardua took place at West Melton Range. With a backdrop of the Southern Alps gleaming like jewels in the sun the conditions were perfect for activities. The exercise, primarily as preparation for Exercise Sparrowhawk also provided a great opportunity for some of the Junior NCOs to get some practical leadership experience in leading teams. Joining 17 Squadron on Ardua was Flight Lieutenant Sutton, Warrant Officer Tarry and Cadet Riddle from 24 (Ashburton) Sqn. The Exercise consisted of a number of lessons as well as practical activities. The best in my opinion was shooting, closely followed by the stretcher run (although many will disagree). On Sunday the day consisted mainly of a First Aid Exercise in the morning followed by touch rugby. The touch was a lot of fun with the winner of the round robin and final squaring off against the NCOs. It is safe to say that the NCO team dominated this game. The Exercise concluded with the awarding of the trophy for most promising cadet on the exercise. It was a difficult decision to make due to the amount of effort that was put in over the weekend. In the end it was Cadet Blair who stepped forward to receive the award. Exercise Ardua proved once again to be a success thanks to the Officers who had worked tirelessly behind the scenes. I left on Sunday, tired, but feeling like I been a part of a productive weekend.

W/O Whitcombe

Ardua for me was a great and enjoyable camp. It was filled with new opportunities; better ways of doing things but most of all this camp was all about teamwork. Ardua was a camp to prepare us cadets for the competition weekend, Sparrowhawk. It tested us and gave us an idea of what challenges there were and what we had to overcome to win. One of the challenges was to safely help all of the injured victims of a "car accident". We all worked together as a team to get through this successfully. Although there were some flaws along the way this was what Ardua was meant to do, prepare us so then we don't have any flaws at Sparrowhawk. This shows that even when we mess-up in our original plan we all got through and helped each other by supporting and encouraging each other. Another challenge was when we had to carry a stretcher of rocks and a stretcher with a jerry can for roughly 1 kilometre in the fastest time possible. In this challenge we all pitched in by taking turns with the stretchers and each carrying one or two rocks to help-out. This shows that even though it was a heavy load we worked together to make it easier. Overall Ardua was a

great experience and next I recommend even more cadets to come along because I learnt a lot and this will help me in a lot of real life situations.

CDT Stokes

Fun Run

The fun run was held on Sunday the 22nd of September. There were so many people there, considering the downpour of rain! There were many food stands that had a lot of varieties such as a sausage sizzle and a candy-floss maker. Almost everyone won a spot prize and the prizes were really good quality. The things I can remember from memory are subway vouchers, MacDonald's vouchers, woolen booties and clip n' climb passes. I'm sure there was many more but I can't remember. The run was very tiring but most people finished the amount they wanted to. The options were 2.5km, 5km, 7.5km and 10km. There were no injuries that I have heard about and if there was I'm sure they were very small. The ground was really wet and the sky was grey but it didn't take the fun out of the event. I have heard many people say that the event was well run and that they all had a good time. I would have to agree with them because I had had great time and the event was well organised. Overall the run was a big hit and everyone had a great time! I'm looking forward to the event next year it should be great, make sure you come along.

CDT Blair

NCO ABL

At some time, somewhere all of the 17 Sqn NCOs gathered at a hillside location, surrounded by ex-naval buildings and armories to conduct a weekend of adventure based leadership. It kicked off by running to the nearest cove to swim out to a marker and back in dire conditions that would push us all. The following day we ran back to the cove to conduct a rescue mission to save a man that had fallen out of his boat and was lying unconscious in the water. This had to be done with no food...



...All the NCOs were using their last ounces of energy to complete the mission. Once the NCOs had brought the man to shore we had to construct a raft to be towed by two ships, sailed by the NCOs to another bay 600m away where the injured man could be airlifted to hospital by helicopter. This was done quickly and efficiently, earning us our breakfast/lunch of 1 muesli bar. On our way back to base our boats suddenly caught fire forcing all the NCOs into the icy water..... somehow we made it ashore and back to base only to find ourselves up in the hills with a mission of making our way back to base, we had to infiltrate an enemy base into one of their buildings to retrieve important paperwork.... ..a lot more happened that weekend including sailing a boat uphill, a formal dinner, sore nipples and watching the sunrise across the ocean.



CPL Jones

Davey Memorial National Drill Competition

So we had to turn up to the block on a Saturday and it was at 12 o'clock. We did some foot drill until everyone had turned up. By 12.30 ish everyone had eventually arrived. We then went out and did some marching. We did the routine a couple of times and then everyone practiced the fall in. We went over the routine a couple more times, then we realized the time was already around 6 o'clock. We left the block not long after that because we were going to laser strike. We were there for a few hours but I can't remember what time exactly it was when we got back, but let's just say that we had enough time to watch a movie and to eat heaps of ice-cream, haha. After the movie it was off to bed for us. We all went and got into bed. 7 o'clock already. Gosh, I guess it was time to get up and have breakfast. After breakfast we went and got changed and went out for a last minute practice. We did the competition and we did alright. It was really good. After the competition, we went back inside and ate up the rest of our stuff. Then it was time to go home.

CDT Maikuku

Exercise Taiaha

A beautiful day in Christchurch, blue skies and a gentle breeze. At 1800 hrs the bus left the block headed for Mt White Bridge. Everyone on the bus was excited and animated but as we approached the camp a couple of things changed. The air cooled and the sky turned grey. I'm thinking "oh dear here we go!!" We still had a long walk to the campsite and already the drizzle came. We grabbed our packs which were stacked in the back of the lodge and Squadron Leader Cole allocated tents. Despite the typical West Coast conditions, the tramp to St Andrews Shelter on Saturday was pretty cheerful with Flying Officer Wech teaching us to navigate to certain map features. At the shelter, although it was only 11am, we ate lunch and Langan and Donaldson tried their hand at making milo. Not such a great idea if you don't know how to use your gas cooker properly!!!

Still raining but not dampening our spirits, the next day we split up into four groups and rotated around activities which included: necessities for a survival kit, communications with radios and Morse code, what to wear on tramp and preparing skits for that night. Emergency shelter building on Sunday afternoon was one of my highlights of the weekend because our group of Corporal Trenberth, Corporal Yang, Poulsen and I had only about an hour to construct an emergency shelter out of a groundsheet, rope and whatever else we could find. Not as easy as you think! After dinner we all huddled in the lodge where each group performed their skit that they had prepared during the day and the NCOs did some improv comedy which was quite amusing. Monday, "yay back home today," and "guess what," the weather turned out bright and sunny! That morning the four groups competed in a so called 'Amazing Race' around the camp. Our team came second which was a surprise since we struggled on some activities. I really enjoyed Exercise Taiaha this year even with the bad weather! Anyone who hasn't been should come next year!!

CDT Debenham

Exercise Taiaha was a very enjoyable weekend. We stayed in tents up at Mt White Bridge (near Arthurs Pass). I am in Basic and I had lessons on RATEL, compass bearings, river crossing, map reading and other bush craft. These lessons were taught in the compass tent, the Unimog, and the back rooms of the lodge and outside in the bush. My favourite lessons were fire-lighting and making shelters where the rest of my group got soaking wet and I stayed dry when the “NCO monsoon” or big bucket of water came. There was no morning PT because weather was cold and wet. Every morning when we woke up it was raining. On the Monday it started snowing and although it didn’t settle on the ground it was still very cold. The food was very yummy. We had the traditional ATC breakfast of hash browns, bacon and spaghetti; filled rolls for lunch and fried rice and nachos for tea. Thank you to the cooks, “you did a great job”. It was good to have the Greymouth and Ashburton cadets on camp with us. Some of them I met on Frostybird earlier in the year. Thanks to everyone who helped organise Taiaha, a fun adventurous weekend at Whites bridge.

CDT Sutcliffe

Cup Day Fundraising

On Wednesday the 12th of November a group of willing and helpful people went along to one of 17 SQN fundraising events for the year. It was a not so pleasant job to be doing but with a great reward at the end for the enthusiastic 17 SQN unit. In short all we had to do was pick up rubbish. I know it sounds easy but with over 20000 people in one very small space it was a little harder. With vomit on the ground and enough plastic cups and cans to sink a ship we had a whole lot of work to do. Filling bins to the brim and interline filling a skip we did our best. But with some pretty intoxicated people and the all-round stubbornness it was hard to even get people to move and access the ground to get to the rubbish. So all in all we did our best to make the place a whole lot cleaner. We will hopefully be back next year in full force for enough great fundraiser.



Sparrowhawk

Cadets from no. 17 Squadron were asked to meet at Burnham Military camp on October 4th to attend Exercise Sparrowhawk that lasted 3 days and 4 nights. Once we had arrived the cadets were given a key to their barracks which would be shared with one or two other cadets. We began setting up our beds, I was unfortunately not given a pillow so had to use clothing instead (which wasn't very comfortable). On the first night, before bed, all of the squadrons and cadets met in the hall and were given a briefing from Squadron Leader Cole, about how to behave while we are staying at Burnham and what we would get up to during our stay. We also had a chance to try out the new rifle guns and sit a test. The next day we got up at 0550hrs and got into our uniform to attend breakfast at 0630. The food on camp was really nice. For breakfast I had hash browns, baked beans and sausages. Afterwards we got together in our teams and headed to our first activity. I was in team Whisky and I found out quite early on that are team was rather competitive; we even went for a run and did squats before the 5km stretcher run. Throughout the week end we did a number of activities such as Top Team, where your group verses another team in an obstacle type course. Rifle shooting, Touch Rugby, First Aid and others. A highlight of the weekend was definitely getting to know new people that you wouldn't have otherwise talked to. Another enjoyable moment was to packed lunches that were handed out in the middle of the day; I've always wanted to eat lunch out of a brown paper bag.

CDT Wilson

Exercise Sparrowhawk was held a Burnham Military Camp from the 4th to the 7th of October 2013. Exercise Sparrowhawk was a competition based camp for many different Squadrons around the South Island, Sparrowhawk is one of my favourite camps of the year. You make stronger friendships with other cadets in teamwork challenges like Top Team which is a team race for with many different activities and yes, you do get wet. My team 17 Papa awesomely pulled through top team and got gold winning top team. I didn't only build stronger relationships with my friends, but made many new friends from all over the South Island. The run was one of the memorable tasks on camp; we had to carry a stretcher while adding more equipment to the already large amount of weight on the stretcher every so often it was extremely hard but rewarding as we passed the finish line with only seconds to spare. Another awesome activity I'll never forget is the Sunday, touch day, playing 3 games of touch in the blazing sun, hot, but worth it! Those were the most memorable things about camp, but there is one thing, something I loved and many other people would have loved, I recommend this camp to everybody just give it a go and you will be rewarded with the most best thing at camp, the food.

CDT Langan



Cadet Votes 2013

Description	Cadet	NCO	Officer
Favourite	Williams B	Jones	Ross
Loudest	Donaldson	Vallance	Cole S
Most charming	Blair	Jones	O'Connor
Grumpiest	Maikuku/Graham	Vallance	Jacka C
Funniest	Enright	Jones	Wech
Smoothest	Lafaele	Crosbie-Priftaie	Varcoe
Most violent	Collins	Swain	Farrow
Best dressed	Meurdrik	Tranberth	Cole K
Best smile	Wilson	Cotton	Cole K
Bravest	Stokes	Withers/Smith	Cole S
Most photogenic	Catto	Saville/Swain	Ross
Brainiest	Saville M	Watson	Cole S/Wech
Grooviest	Stevenson/Enright	Crosbie-Priftaie	Morris/O'Connor
Dodgiest male	Donaldson	Lee	O'Connor
Dodgiest female	Ryken	Watson	Morris
Most accident-prone	Maikuku	Swain	Morris
Most approachable	Soni/Wilson	Smith	Gardner
Most likely to get married	Bevan & Lafaele	Withers & Saville	O'Connor & Pendlly
Best dance moves	Pugh R	Basham	Wootton/Wech
Best hair style	Dallagan	Siddall	Pendlly/Ross
Best singing voice	Pugh R	Pugh R	"None of them"
Action hero award	Blair/Figg	Whitcombe	Wech
Best leader	Williams B	Cotton/Vallance	Cole S
Best drill instructor		Price/Vallance	Gardner
Best classroom instructor		Watson	Gardner
Best PT instructor		Whitcombe	
Most likely to be next NCO	Catto		
Most likely to be next WO		Cotton	
Most likely to be a SQNLDR	Collins/Killner	Cotton	Pendlly/Jacka R

Quotes

"I don't want anyone being kinky in my squad" – F/S Withers
 "That's for being there when I needed you the most" – CPL O'Regan
 "Left my bike outside ATC. Nek 15minut..... still there because we're good youth" SGT Sutton
 "Can I touch your thingwhatsit?" – F/S Withers
 At the Cenotaph Guard practice for ANZAC Day, F/S Pugh was accused of having slower timing than the others.
 "See, I'm in time with UO Farrow and he's got good drill!"
 "I'm just trying to go slower than Nixon because I don't know I'm in time."
 "Michael." – W/O Whitcombe
 PLTOFF Morris "Do you grow facial hair yet?"
 "What does a nosy pepper do? Gets Jalapeno business" – a cool joke.
 "I have children all over the bare = I don't even remember! – F/S Withers
 WO's pep talk after 23 SQN got a stretcher run
 WO: "If we're going to lose we're not going to lose"

 WO discussing Cadet #10
 WO: "It's going to be sicker than AIDS"

 WO talking about a gym
 WO: "It'll be like the uni gym, a massive sausage fest"
 Smith: "Oh do you go there?"
 WO: "Yeah"

 Wilson's "ear" encouragement

Wilson: "We are the pole"
 Smith: "What was that? Another quote?"
 Pugh: "I'm going to focus on raising churches"
 WO: "Well I'm going to focus on winning"
 Pugh: "Go to the WO"
 Pugh: "Why are you so hot?"
 Clark: "New Zealand is controlled by the Air Force"
 Wilson: "I really put it in, I'm too retarded or something"
 "If this mishaps one more time, I'm gonna engage the paper targets with my bare hands!"
 Smith: "What is the air force ground symbol for all is well?"
 Cameron: "X means kisses so let's go with B"
 CR: "Put it in your ear"
 Cotton: "Is it nice?"

 Basic Cadet: "It says the Prof and Advanced should bring a tramping tent if they have one. What exactly are the tents for?"
 PLTOFF Pendery: "Don't sleeping it"

Arrivals and Departures

Departures:

UO Andy moved to Hamilton and joined the squadron there.
 UO Maikuku left due to working commitments.
 UO Ross left for sky diving school.

17 Squadron thanks all those NCOs, Under Officers and Officers for their years of loyal service and wishes them the best of luck for the future!

Arrivals:

W/O Whitcombe and UO O'Connor joined our unit from 36 (Greymouth) Squadron.

Start Dates 2014

Officers and NCOs: 30 January
 Current Cadets: 6 February
 New Recruits: 13 February

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- RNZAF SGT S. Presser
- Mr Neville Warsaw
- Mr Trevor Ford
- Mr Neil Wech
- Mrs Kathy Wech
- Ms Jenny Vallance
- Unit CI: Mr CORRIE van der Zwet
- 17 SQN Support Committee
- Christchurch Cadet Trust
- 18 SQN ATC
- 38 SQN ATC
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- New Zealand Army
- Royal New Zealand Air Force
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- Christchurch RSA
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- RNZAF Museum
- NZ Fire Service
- High Wire Trust

And the following businesses:

- A to Z engraving
- Black Hills Holden
- KiwiHost
- Advanced Autohomes

Please Support these businesses with your patronage if possible.

Many thanks to all these cadets, officers, parents and friends of the SQN who contributed to the magazine this year with articles and pictures.